

‘I wear heels to try to make myself look a bit different  
than how I really feel’

Mapping material-discursive-affective intra-actions in the  
production of a counsellor subjectivity

GEA Conference 2014

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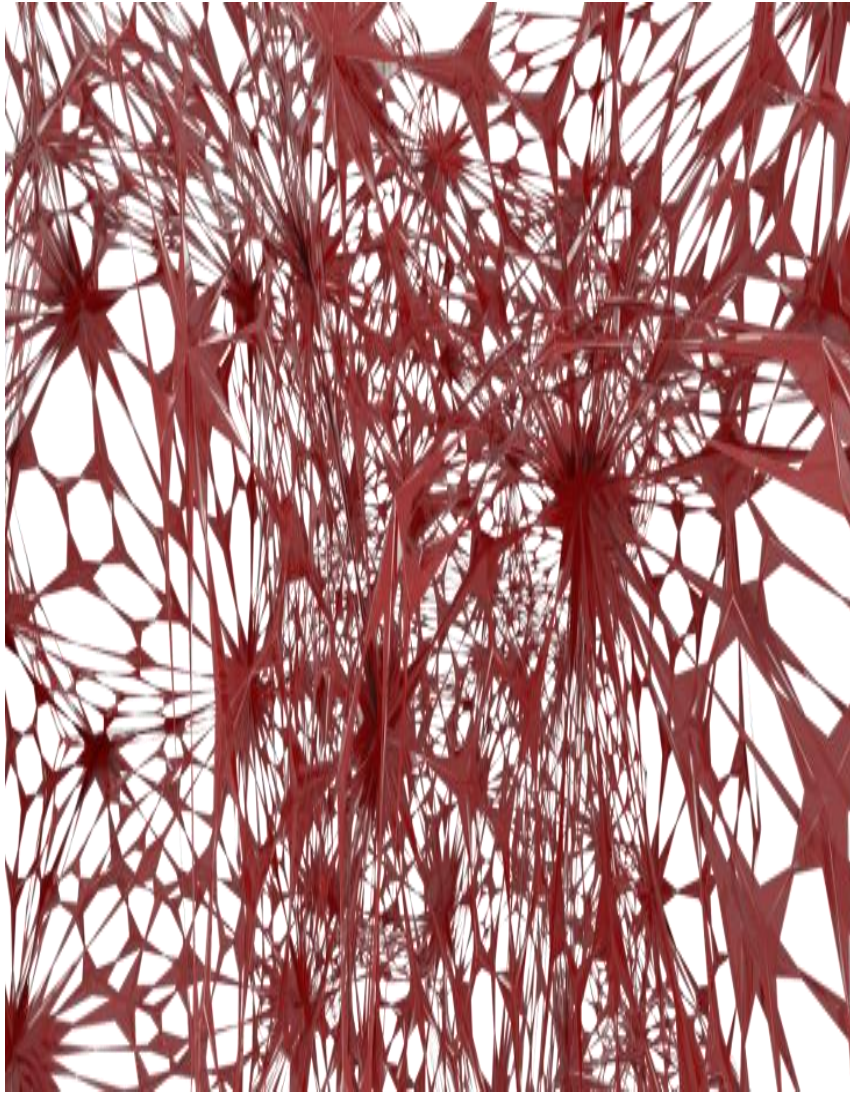
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# Being and becoming counsellor

‘the novice journey can be arduous’

‘they are in the midst of great anxiety,  
discomfort, and uncertainty’ (Skovholt  
and Ronnestad, 2003)

‘broken down’, ‘disoriented’, ‘almost  
devastating’, ‘emotional roller-coaster’, ‘fear-  
producing’, ‘uncomfortable’ and ‘confusing’  
(Auxier, Hughes, Kline, 2003)



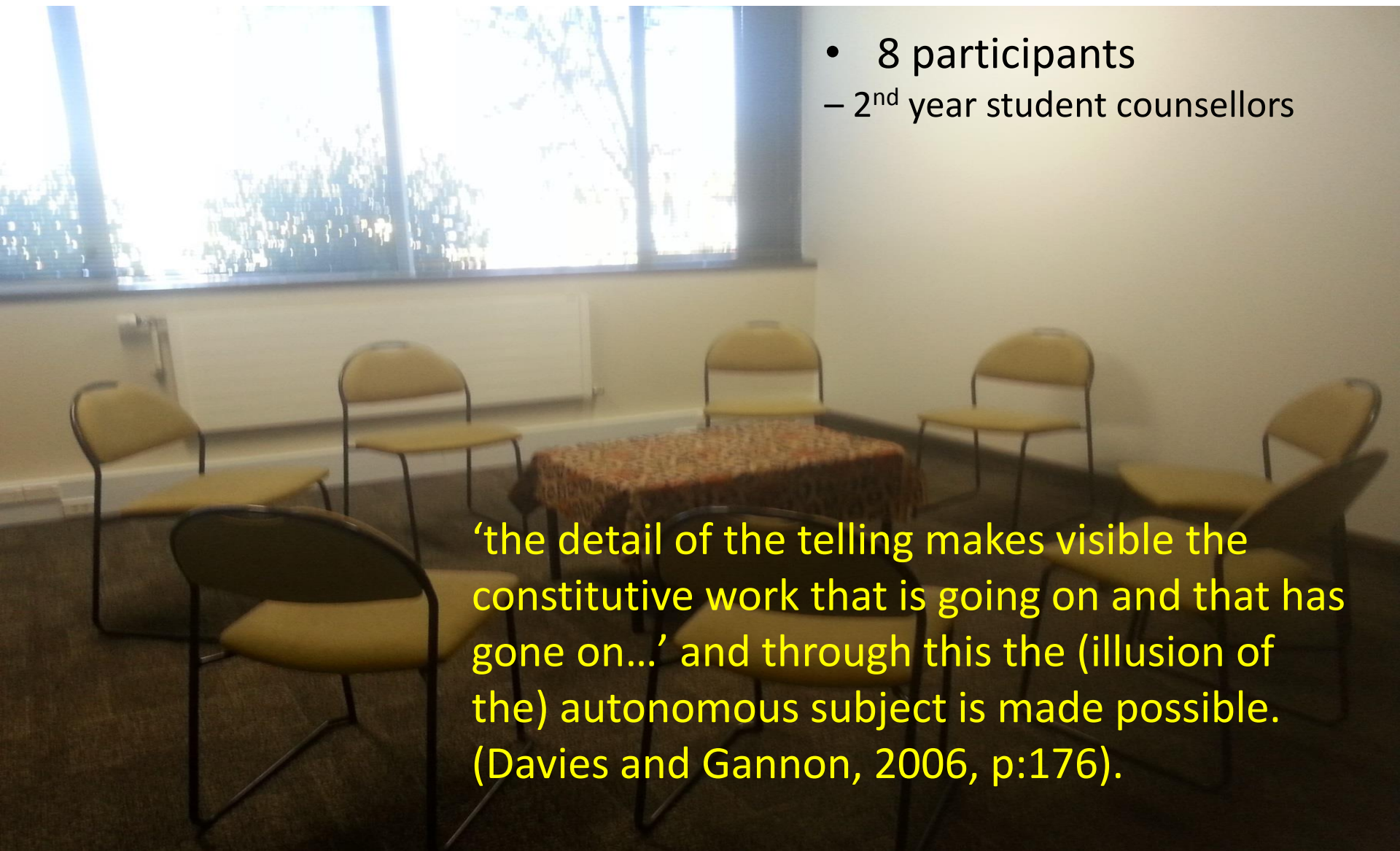
‘A rhizome has no beginning or end; it is always in the middle, between things, interbeing, *intermezzo*’  
(Deleuze & Guattari, 1987, p25)

Image: [boneykeriwala](#)

# Method - Collective Biography

(Bronwyn Davies & Susanne Gannon)

- 8 participants
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year student counsellors



‘the detail of the telling makes visible the constitutive work that is going on and that has gone on...’ and through this the (illusion of the) autonomous subject is made possible. (Davies and Gannon, 2006, p:176).

# Mapping Data – poems and images

‘Mapping affords opportunities to read data as complex, connected, relational networks. It discloses *potential* organizations of reality rather than reproducing some prior organization – it thus charts territory anew.’ (Martin & Kamberelis, 2013, p671)

## Rescued Speech Poems

- enables the complexity, multiplicity, richness, and partiality of stories to be told
- poetry has ‘space between’ which allows for tentativeness, silence, and ambiguity to be held
- de-centring coherent, linear narratives and the spoken voice as dominant representations of knowledge.


# Karen Barad 'the entanglement of matter and meaning'

'to be entangled is not simply to be intertwined with another, as in the joining of separate entities, but to lack an independent, self-contained existence. Existence is not an individual affair. Individuals do not pre-exist their interactions; rather, individuals emerge through and as part of their entangled **intra-relating**'

(Barad, 2007, pix)



# This Place...

A photograph of a therapy room. In the center is a small, square wooden table. On the table sits a vase with a bouquet of red and orange flowers, and a green box of tissues. To the left of the table is a purple upholstered chair. In the foreground, the backs of two more purple upholstered chairs are visible. The room has light-colored walls and a window with white blinds in the background.

Trying to be a counsellor  
honour what the client needs and  
also what I need as a counsellor  
cos my job's really hard and  
I need space and  
I need things to be able to look after myself so  
I can do the job properly and

# ‘I wear heels’



I haven't been able to be myself  
completely  
in the professional environment  
I've had to put this capsule around me  
to make myself look older, more  
professional, more mature  
I dress quite differently  
to go to placement  
I wear heels  
I try to make myself look a bit different  
than how I really feel



# Material → Discursive Intra-action



you need to be at the  
staff room every  
lunchtime and interval  
and network  
with the teachers so  
they learn to trust you,

# Implications

‘From a poststructuralist perspective the individualised subject-of-will is both an idea and an accomplishment that we each labour over, attempting to make real an idealized image of ourselves—as rational, as responsible—in relation to which we are always judged and found wanting’ (Davies, 2010, p55)

‘In contrast, listening to the other, for the subject-of-thought, involves listening not just to oneself and the other, but to the boat, the river, the stars, the changing weather patterns, the waves, and their co-implication in each other. It listens to changing, emergent thought and reflects on it, is integrally co-implicated in it. It is in this capacity to listen to emergent thought that its agency lies.’ (Davies, 2010, p57)



...and getting into this trap like I mean there's part of me that has contributed to it, but I'm not just seeing it as me and my fault and me and self-doubt. I can see that there is a lot more that's been going on.

...so I kind of felt I was stuck in this loop, just over and over again, so coming to the group was a way for me to unknot that loop, I guess and I could understand it better. I feel I could have been stuck in a lot of loops that didn't shift without everyone else's contribution.

Eva.

# References

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